

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 BIB-01 /041 W

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P R 171400Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9288

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMZDBASSY MOSCOW 2967

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 4842

USIA FOR IEU: IMV; GENEVA FOR PAA HAFREY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJECT: LIVE TV COVERAGE OF U S ELECTION

1. POST EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN DETERMINING FEASIBILITY OF LIVE U S TV COVERAGE FOR OUR ELECTION NIGHT PROGRAM. WE HAVE IN MIND SATELLITE BROADCAST FOR CLOSED-CIRCUIT VIEWING IN AMLIB BY ROMANIAN JOURNALISTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATS. ANY ONE OF THREE U S COMMERCIAL BROADCASTS WOULD SUFFICE. IN ADDITION TO TV BROADCASTS, WE ARE THINKING OF SETTING UP POLLING BOOTH AND HOLDING MOCK ELECTION, MONITORING VOA RETURNS, INSTALLING AP AND UPI TICKERS, AND SERVING REFRESHMENTS (DONATED BY AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY). BECAUSE OF TIME DIFFERENTIAL, WE WOULD PLAN PROGRAM TO TAKE PLACE FROM MIDNIGHT TO 0600 LOCAL TIME.

2. WE EXPECT COSTS FOR CONTINUOUS SATELLITE COVERAGE WOULD BE ENORMOUS. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY AGENCY COULD FUND SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS TO ONE CENTRAL EUROPEAN GROUND STATION, WITH EACH PARTICIPATING POST THEN PAYING LAND-LINE COSTS TO ITS CAPITAL?

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IF NOT FEASIBLE, DOES AGENCY KNOW WHAT EUROVISION IS PLANNING

TO COVER? ARE EUROVISION BROADCASTS VIA SATELLITE DONE IN ENGLISH
AND THEN TRANSLATED BY EACH PARTICIPATING STATION? ARE THERE
ANY OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR LIVE TV COVERAGE OF WHICH WE ARE
NOT AWARE?

3. WE HAVE NOT YET SPOKEN TO ROMTV ABOUT THEIR PLANS, BUT WE
SERIOUSLY DOUBT THEY WILL DO MUCH BEYOND EXTRACTING CLIPS FROM
EUROVISION COVERAGE FOR THEIR OWN NEWSCASTS.
VIETS

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Disposition Event:
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